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Algeria

A "council of government" session chaired by the prime minister discussed an economic revival plan, according to Algiers radio, which also broadcast a five-point list of government priorities and an interview with the prime minister on the subject. A 60-member Consultative Council will be set up to advise the Higher State Council, according to Algiers television, which noted that the council will not have legislative powers. Five were killed and 28 injured in a clash in Batna, according to the radio, which also reported the arrest of a number of imams and moves against Islamic Salvation Front personnel.

Iraq

Talks with the United Nations on resuming the country's oil exports "were called off and not just postponed," Radio Monte Carlo reported. The UN representative to the talks said the Iraqi envoy gave him no reason for the move, the radio continued. The country rejected any UN monitoring of its weapons construction or procurement programs, in a message to the United Nations reported by Amman radio. Former Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, who was replaced in September 1991, wrote an article for AL-JUMHURIYAH on the Gulf war, INA reported.

Israel

Ari'el Sharon said that loans received as a result of U.S. guarantees "are not designated for construction" in the West Bank and Gaza, Tel Aviv radio reported. The U.S. sale of jets to Saudi Arabia is "a source of concern" to the country, HA'ARETZ affirmed. Air Force sources cited by the paper maintained, however, that the country's air supremacy will not be affected by the sale. The Air Force chief of staff said the Saudis' perception of strategic depth could lead them to support, if not to participate in, an eastern front against the country. The Knesset will disband on 17 March and elections will be held on 23 June, according to a bill passed by the Knesset and reported by Jerusalem radio.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi termed as "terrorism" allegations that the country is secretly producing chemical weapons. In an interview on German television and cited by ADN, he additionally invited a "worldwide commission" to visit to confirm his claim. Al-Qadhdhafi said that the nation will "refrain" from using nuclear energy for "military purposes," the news agency continued, and he offered the International Atomic Energy Agency "additional inspections" of Libyan nuclear plants. He also rejected Western media reports that Tripoli is attempting to recruit former Soviet nuclear experts, the news agency concluded.

Yemen

A Council of Representatives statement issued after discussion of the country's role in the Arab-Israeli multilaterals was reported by Sanaa radio. Before deciding to participate, the statement affirmed, the government should have consulted with the legislature, as participation in the talks constituted "new elements of the government's foreign policy." The withdrawal of the delegation, a move called "positive," should also have been coordinated, the statement continued.

Syria

Foreign Minister al-Shar' said the country has not received an invitation to the next round of Arab-Israeli talks, according to Radio Monte Carlo, which cited "reliable sources" as saying that the country "will refuse" to discuss any subject in the talks other than an Israeli withdrawal and its recognition of Palestinian rights.

Egypt

A Foreign Ministry official told ROSE AL-YUSUF that the country is not interested in restoring relations with Iran just for the sake of restoring them, and denied that Cairo had requested mediation efforts by Oman or Syria to that end.

Sudan

The government announced measures designed to institute a free-market economy, SUNA reported, among which was an end to currency and exchange controls and a move toward price liberalization. Briefing the media on the moves, the finance minister denied that the measures had any connection to recent talks with the IMF, the agency continued. Elsewhere, three Air Force officers were said executed after their attempted coup was uncovered, according to the Cairo paper AL-WAFD.

India

The government "strongly protested" Pakistan's call for a 5 February nationwide strike to observe a day of solidarity with the people of Kashmir, and considers it a "blatant attempt to interfere in India's internal affairs," Delhi radio reported. A spokesman added that the move is "not in keeping with the spirit of recent discussions" between the two countries' prime ministers, the radio continued, adding the spokesman's remarks that the country also questions Pakistan's sincerity in efforts to reduce mutual tension.

Pakistan

The government reportedly decided not to allow the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front to cross the line of control in Kashmir, scheduled for 11 February, Delhi radio reported. The nation's observance of a day of solidarity with Kashmiris was reported by Islamabad radio, which also reported the prime minister's remarks on the occasion.

Algeria

Council of Government Examines 'Revival Plan'

Approves Direct Aid to Poor

LD0402065692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The council of government which met last night chaired by Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali continued working until late in the evening. During its meeting the council concentrated on studying the government's work program for the economic revival plan. It discussed the annual plan for 1992 and it approved the executive decree pertaining to the conditions and procedures to be used to providing direct aid to low-income social groups.

The Higher State Council had asked the government over a week ago to draw up an economic revival plan to invigorate the productive apparatus and deal with unemployment.

Statement Lists Government's Priorities

LD0402225992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The cabinet issued a statement today on the proceedings of its meeting yesterday, saying in particular:

The council of government met on 3 February under Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali. Considering that the Higher State Council had entrusted the government on 18 January with preparing tangible proposals to revive the national economy, the council of government heard and discussed this revival plan and the results of the work of the ministerial working groups formed with this purpose in mind at the 21 January council of government meeting.

The actions included in the proposals presented by the government to the Higher State Council mirror, in quantity and quality, those included in the government's program and finance bill for 1992 and the annual plan for the same year, which were approved by the National People's Assembly. The proposals being prepared are aimed at setting priorities and introducing all factors liable to respond to the concerns expressed by the Higher State Council. At this stage in the country's life, it is incumbent on the government to work to revive trust and hope in the souls of citizens through tangible activities:
Establishing the state's legal authority is among the basic conditions for reassuring the citizens;
Giving a new boost to the productive apparatus, which has been inactive for more than six years;
Effectively mobilizing national solidarity in order to reduce differences;
Eliminating the various causes of the squandering and dissipation of national resources, and their wasteful exploitation;
Paying special attention to the situation of youth, who represent the widest slice of society and who suffer most from the effects of the economic and social crisis, as well as from political and social deviations.

After discussion by the council of government, the project will be submitted to the Higher State Council for approval within 10 days.

Ghozali Discusses Government's Action Program

LD0402222592 Algiers International Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by unidentified reporter on 4 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, contrary to recent reports, your government enjoys the trust of the chairman of the Higher State Council. This was confirmed yesterday by Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf. He pointed to the possibility of a ministerial reshuffle, so is it possible for us to know the general direction of this reshuffle? In other words, what is the philosophy of this reshuffle? Please, go ahead.

[Ghozali] What the government is now preoccupied with, especially since the installation of the Higher State Council, and after its statement on 15 January in which it urged the government to present tangible proposals concerning the issues affecting citizens' livelihoods, is work aimed at adjusting the government program approved by the National People's Assembly and the finance bill for 1992. We are adjusting the 1992 program of action to suit the developments and the preoccupations expressed by the Higher State Council. Ministerial teams worked until yesterday. They submitted to the government a draft program of action, which was discussed yesterday.

Now we are at the final draft stage. This program will be presented to the Higher State Council within 10 days, God willing. Thus, the first preoccupation of the government now is the drafting of this program, which contains a reconsideration of some of the priorities, giving more force to some of the other points of the action program approved [words indistinct].

When this program or plan is presented to the Higher Security Council, and when it is approved by the Higher State Council, that is the time for thinking about adjusting government structures to meet the requirements of this plan. The restructuring and the partial change in the [words indistinct] will be widened to a similar change at the administrative and national economic level. What the people are now asking for is what I described before as drastic change, and drastic change [words indistinct].

Thus, the government, or the members of the cabinet, discussed yesterday the draft. What remains is the final draft of the program. This is what I personally have taken upon myself. I have placed myself in isolation for

four or five days in order to work on the final draft of this program. Then, God willing, it will be presented to the Higher State Council.

[Reporter] Having mentioned the program and the plan leads us to the economic problem. Mr. Ghozali, you took part recently in the Davos economic forum. You had several meetings. Did you return with something tangible within the framework of (?cooperation)?

[Ghozali] This is an annual meeting. It included a large number of senior officials from the political and economic fields. We exchanged views on the situation, or rather the new international order, and we had the opportunity to express what we expect from this order, what we fear from it, and what we hope will come from it. At the same time, I had the opportunity to clarify the picture of the Algerian march, whether in the political or economic fields. In general, of course, the advanced or industrial world does not have a clear picture of what is happening in this country. Probably the fault lies with us, because in the past we did not contribute to projecting the true image of our country, our people, and our policies.

[Reporter] In other words, Mr. Ghozali, we can say there was no response. This leads me...

[Ghozali, interrupting] No, there is understanding and response. There is understanding and [words indistinct]. At the same time, people are watching and asking if stability will be established in this country.

[Reporter] This leads us to the financial problem from which Algeria is suffering in the current difficult circumstances. It seems that this problem meets hesitation on the part of some international financial quarters, particularly the Credit Lyonnais bank. Mr. Ghozali, does this not affect your movement? Will you be forced to consider rescheduling?

[Ghozali] The financial situation as it stood in June was very bad. I do not say that it has now reached a satisfactory level, but there has been some improvement. We are out of the negative zone in terms of hard currency reserves, although we have not yet reached the level that would permit a new and true launch to reinvigorate our productivity.

Therefore, the government must continue its efforts to improve its financial balance both domestically and internationally. Obviously, people are not yet sure that there is the stability that they would like. This affects the stand abroad, where there is interest in dealing with Algerians.

In addition, there have been some actions since last summer by people who for domestic political reasons are inciting foreigners not to deal with us.

Consultative Council To Consist of 60 Members

LD0402222892 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The Consultative Council due to be set up will consist of 60 members who will be selected on an objective basis. This was revealed today by Mr. Ali Haroun, member of the Higher State Council and minister for human rights, in a statement to Algiers radio.

Mr. Ali Haroun said that this council will not legislate. It will give views and advice and it will study files at the initiative of the Higher State Council, or at its own initiative but with the agreement of the Higher State Council.

Ghozali Responds to FIS Communique

LD0502103992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Speaking yesterday on Algiers radio, Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali did not hide his support for the words spoken by the president [as heard] of the Higher State Council and appears to agree totally with the different themes discussed during the interview.

The restoration of the state's moral authority is the main priority in the government's plan of action for 1992, declared Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, who took the opportunity to reject the term of emergency plan and spoke instead of a plan of action. He added that his government was expecting to work on restarting production to satisfy the citizens' vital needs and reduce inequalities.

As for Algeria's image in the world, the head of government believes that our country is not seen in a good light in the Western world due to the large number of false signals emanating from Algeria, thereby making it hard for other countries to understand what is happening in Algeria at the moment. It is urgent, he said, for our country to produce a true picture of a nation increasingly moving toward stability.

As for the latest communique [No. 12] by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]—given, as usual to AFP—it reiterates this party's position in five points. They are: nonrecognition of the Higher State Council; the release of all political prisoners, especially the FIS leader; the continuation of the interrupted electoral process; lifting the siege of mosques; and finally, urging the international community to refuse to deal with the new authorities—in other words, to boycott Algeria.

The head of government says that this is exactly what Algeria has always refused—that is, interference by foreign countries in our internal affairs. Mr. Ghozali pointed out that this is nonetheless what this FIS communique is calling for.

5 Killed, 28 Injured in Batna Disturbances

LD0502105592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] A statement released by the governor of Batna Province said that the incidents experienced by the city of Batna yesterday have left five people killed and 28 injured. The injured were transferred to the city's hospital. The statement added that an investigation is currently under way to determine the circumstances in which the victims were injured and also to reveal those who caused these painful events.

Constantine Demonstrators, Security Forces Clash

LD0402132792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] In Constantine, the trial of a number of Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] members attracted many supporters and the situation turned into a scuffle. With the details, here is our radio correspondent, Daas el-Rabi:

[El Rabi] The situation in Constantine has been tense since this morning. Three of the FIS, activists Thabet Abdelaziz, Chaker Abdelaziz, and Chibli, appeared before the Constantine court. The court is still continuing its deliberation in a tense atmosphere.

The tense situation began after 0900 this morning outside the courthouse, where a large number of demonstrators gathered chanting slogans calling for the establishment of an Islamic state. In the meantime, security force reinforcements gathered in Martyrs Square, where the Palace of Justice is located.

According to Badra Ben Mhidi, our radio correspondent at the Palace of Justice, who could not report from there, confrontations took place between the demonstrators and the security forces, which had to use tear gas canisters because the demonstrators, who included adolescent youths, were throwing stones. Our colleague Badra stated that one soldier was injured. We will verify this report at a later time.

At this moment the situation is still tense. All approaches to Martyrs Square have been closed to traffic.

This is all the information we have so far. Our correspondent Badra Ben Mhidi is still at the Palace of Justice closely following developments.

Calm Returns After Imams Acquitted

LD0502000992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Clashes took place between security forces and demonstrators in Constantine and Batna today. The incidents broke out near the courts in the two towns. Three imams, including two representatives of the Islamic Salvation Front elected in the first round of the legislative elections, appeared before a judge in Constantine. They were acquitted. Calm has returned.

In Batna, another imam appeared in court. According to the national gendarmerie command, the toll of the disturbances stirred up in Batna today by groups of young activists and sympathizers of the FIS is two dead and several injured, including a captain of the National People's Army. [passage omitted]

For the moment calm seems to have returned to Constantine. The main thoroughfares in the town center which were practically deserted throughout the day have finally been reopened to traffic. It should be noted that about 30 people, most of them youths, were arrested during the events in Constantine today. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Opposition Detentions

15 FIS Religious Figures Arrested

LD0302223592 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2130 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The arrests continue in Algeria. Official sources this evening confirmed the arrest of some 15 religious figures of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] for breaches of the peace.

Bechar Imam Arrested

LD0302231692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The public prosecutor of the Bechar Judicial Council has announced that the imam of the Othmane Ibn Affane Mosque, who is an activist in the ranks of the Islamic Salvation Front, has been put in preventive custody.

According to a judicial source, the imam is accused of inciting worshippers to rebel and of harming the security of the state and national unity.

Guemar Imam Arrested

LD0402191592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] It was learned today from the el-Oued public prosecutor that the imam of Malek Ibn Kaab Mosque, (Ourmech) municipality, Guemar department, was arrested recently.

The same source points out that the aforementioned person is accused of delivering a series of agitative speeches and making calls for an armed assembly. The accused is expected to appear in court next week.

FIS Provincial Leader Temporarily Freed

LD0302171892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] We have learned from the prosecuting attorney of the Sidi-Bel-Abbes court that Boukhari Maachou has been released. He is the head of the Islamic Salvation Front regional executive bureau in Sidi-Bel-Abbes and

was arrested last Saturday and charged with distributing copies of Communiques Nos. 9 and 10 issued by the FIS leadership. The communiques were found plastered on the walls of Sidi-Bel-Abbes mosques and bearing the stamp of the provincial bureau.

The same judicial source said that Cheikh Boukhari had been referred to the courts and judged in an official court session. He was finally released last night following the verdict of a temporary three-month release order. Immediately after this verdict was given, the head of the FIS regional bureau and FIS activists and supporters left. These had gathered yesterday at 1 May Square in the town center to await the verdict.

It is worth pointing out that Cheikh Boukhari admitted among other things that he did in fact distribute Communiques Nos. 9 and 10 to activists but for reading and not to be plastered on walls. Police headquarters says that communiques of this kind are banned and violators will be sternly dealt with.

Police Lift Blockade of Former FIS Headquarters

LD0302230392 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The blockade of the former headquarters of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] was lifted early this afternoon. The premises have been closed since last summer when former FIS President Abassi Medani was arrested. [passage omitted]

Rights Group Tells Boudiaf of 'Possible Excesses'

LD0402224992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, met yesterday with the president and members of the Executive Bureau of the Algerian League of Human Rights at the latter's request, according to a statement issued by the league today.

The president and members of the Algerian Human Rights League expressed the league's concern over possible excesses which could undermine the security forces' efforts aimed at establishing the authority of the state.

During their meeting with Mr. Boudiaf the members of the Executive Bureau noted cases in which the rights and liberties of citizens in Algiers, Oran, and Constantine had been violated. The chairman of the Higher State Council spoke at length afterward, the league's statement says, and affirmed his determination and commitment to seeing that human rights are respected by all the state institutions within the framework of the continuation of the democratic process and the principles of the state and the law.

As for the use of places of worship for partisan purposes, Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf expressed his opposition to some practices which harm the spiritual values of the Muslim people of Algeria, according to the statement of the Algerian League of Human Rights. Such practices could, Mr. Boudiaf added, take the political movement out of its democratic framework. [sentence as heard]

The chairman of the Higher State Council also expressed his support for and confidence in the work of the human rights organizations and called on their activists to unite their ranks.

Belkhadem Denies Summoned by Military Court

LD0402222492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Abdelaziz Belkhadem, former speaker of the National People's Assembly, has denied in a statement to national radio that he was summoned by the Blida military court to appear before it as a witness for acting as a mediator in the contacts which took place last June between the leadership of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and the presidency of the Republic, as the AL-KHABAR daily reported in its issue today.

In his statement to the radio station, Mr. Belkhadem said he has not received up to now any invitation or summons. If I am invited, I will respond and give my evidence, he added. He said that he did not carry out any mediation between the government and the FIS but rather between the latter and the presidency of the Republic.

* Report Alleges Saudi Citizen Finances FIS

92P40111A Paris PARIS MATCH in French 23 Jan 92 p 31

[Text] Who finances the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]? It seems today that Saudi dollars again flow like water into Islamists' funds. In effect this check for $1 million payable to Yusuf Jamil, a Saudi, was finally endorsed on behalf of a small association, Abbad Islamique of Saint-Ouen, in Seine-Saint-Denis. The president of this association, Ahmed Sinozrog, is none other than the personal attorney of Abassi Medani, the president of the FIS who is today in prison. The circle is now complete.

FIS' Activities, Supporters in France Detailed

92P40110A Paris PARIS MATCH in French 23 Jan 92 p 31

[Text] The FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] does not have an organized plan for France, but the presence of 720,000 Algerians on French territory could contribute to its mobilization. Some small but very active groups in France have already put themselves on the rolls. Their primary target is the suburbs. In Nanterre, an Islamic association launched an antidrug campaign. This neighborhood association is linked to Moussa Kraouch, known as a very active Islamist and one of the leaders of the Algerian Brotherhood in France. This organization is one of the official FIS links in France. It is headed by a young imam from Antony (Hauts-de-Seine), Djafar el-Haouari. The association quietly received Rabah Kebir,

head of the FIS public affairs committee and foreign relations, during a meeting that took place on 16 November. In Paris, notices in Arabic announcing that Rabah Kebir was coming to Paris were posted at the exits of some mosques such as the mosque on Rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud, even though it is run by a religious group outside the sphere of influence of the Algerian Islamist movement. Larbi Kechat, who leads prayers at the mosque on Rue Tanger for several thousand faithful, has been publicly supporting the FIS since 1990. The day after the first round of elections in December, he sent a congratulatory telegram to Abassi Medani, the FIS' No. 1 man. Mohamed Yahiaoui, who directs an Islamic association in Chervieu, near Lyon, where the mosque was razed by order of the mayor in August 1989, claims himself to be the official delegate of the Algerian Islamist party. In Marseille, an Islamic group, Al-Ahrar, is composed of former Islamic activists who were pursued in Algiers in the 1980's. Algeria, through its Ministry of Religious Affairs, pays the salaries of 50 imams responsible for leading prayers in French mosques, such as the imam at the largest mosque in Paris, and many itinerant imams. What will they be saying at prayers if the FIS comes into power?

Egypt

Mubarak Views Arab Absence From Talks, Lockerbie

NC0402221192 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Feb 92 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has stated that four important laws designed to develop the Egyptian economy will be issued within the next few weeks. In a dialogue with the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers who accompanied him on his return trip from Nigeria yesterday, the president remarked that the new laws will constitute a shift from a state of recession to one of prosperity in the Egyptian economy. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt has done and is still doing its utmost to reverse the damage caused by the Libyan-U.S. situation. He noted that Egypt has pointed out to the United States that any act of aggression against Libya will incite further violence and inflame the situation. He said that Egypt has succeeded so far in delaying a decision to strike Libya.

The president asserted that elements from both sides are aggravating the situation. He referred in this context to intimidating Libyan remarks, particularly by a senior Libyan official, which reveal an underestimation of possible repercussions. He underlined that such remarks provoke the West and spur plans to carry out threats to impose an economic and political embargo.

The president pointed out that U.S. President George Bush is coming under pressure to punish Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, particularly with the approach of presidential elections. He explained that the U.S. Administration is looking for anything that will enhance President Bush's popularity among voters. He voiced his fears that aggression against Libya might result from the pressure put on the U.S. Administration.

President Mubarak regretted the absence of certain Arab parties from the multilateral talks in Moscow and pointed out that Israel's unchallenged presence in the arena is bound to help it triumph at the expense of Arab rights. The president believes that all Arab parties should have attended the conference to present their own views to the representatives of 40 states.

The president stated that Egypt has emphasized to the United States that the Palestinian delegation should include elements from outside the occupied territories and that no bilateral negotiations or "seminars" should be held among delegations. He noted that Egypt has also stipulated that the talks be held next April.

Responding to AL-WAFD's question on Egypt's absence from the UN General Assembly general session in which a resolution equating Zionism with racism was repealed, the president said: That was a political and diplomatic maneuver to serve the interests of an Arab party that is being threatened by the United States and other Western governments. The president described the resolution as "trivial, insignificant, and ineffectual."

The president was asked about a state security court's verdict sentencing an author to eight years in prison for assailing heavenly religions. President Mubarak said: I will not repeal the verdict. The prime minister, in his capacity as deputy military ruler [al-hakim al-'askari], will study the findings and legal reasons. If they prove faulty in any way, the author will be retried before another court.

Musa—No Peace Possible Unless Israel Withdraws

NC3101082392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] In a statement to an Israeli paper, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that no peace in the Middle East can be attained without Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories.

Musa noted the Syrian Government's readiness to sign a peace treaty with Israel if the Israeli Government pledges to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights.

Talk of 'Greater Israel' Assailed

NC0302092992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 3 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM cites Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa as saying that talk about a Greater Israel means that there will be no peace in the Middle East. Minister Musa said that if Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir continues to make remarks to this effect he will undermine the peace process.

Musa made these remarks before leaving for Cyprus yesterday, in reaction to remarks Shamir made two days ago reiterating his commitment to a Greater Israel.

Third Party Mediation on Iran Ties Not Requested

NC3001141192 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 27 Jan 92 p 14

[Report by Wa'il al-Abrashi]

[Text] A ranking official at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has reacted to statements by Asadollah Bayat, the hard-line deputy speaker of the Iranian parliament, that the Iranian Revolution Council strongly rejects resuming diplomatic relations with Egypt in accordance with the decision made by Ayatollah Khomeyni. The official disclosed to ROSE AL-YUSUF that Iran had requested eight times to resume relations without referring the matter to the parliament or to the Supreme National Security Council, the highest political authority there. He added that the most recent attempt was made in October 1991.

The official said that Egypt has informed Iran that it rejects a formal resumption of relations just for the sake of resuming them, and that it asked Iran to wait until all pending complicated differences in policies, moves, and ideas are resolved.

In an exclusive statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF, Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr said that Egypt has never demanded any mediation with Iran and that it is not Egypt which is alleging Omani or Syrian mediation, for Egypt's stands are clear and declared. He added, however, that Egypt is responding to any mediation effort with appreciation and respect for the mediators.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Denies Chemical Weapons Production

LD0302094692 Berlin ADN in German 0814 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Berlin/Tripoli (ADN)—Leader of the revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has described questions about his country's alleged secret production of chemical weapons as "terrorism against the citizens of Libya." In an interview for the early morning magazine program "Frueh Magazine" on RTL Plus [satellite television] on Wednesday, the Libyan head of state protested such allegations. Many official delegations have been in the factories, he said, and nobody found anything amiss. "If a worldwide commission wants to verify that, then let it come," al-Qadhdhafi said.

His country will also refrain from using nuclear energy for military purposes, the Libyan head of state assured Hans Blix, International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] director general, in Tripoli only days ago. He offered the IAEA additional inspections of Libyan nuclear plants. At the same time, al-Qadhdhafi rejected Western media reports that Tripoli is trying to recruit former Soviet nuclear experts.

Mauritania

73 Prisoners Released; UDF Leaders Face Trial

LD0102233292 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] In Mauritania, 73 people who were arrested following the incidents in Nouadhibou have been released, and 32 others, among them the leaders of the Union of Democratic Forces [UDF], are expected to be presented to the magistrates this evening to be immediately tried. The authorities accuse them of having made calls for violence.

All political activity has been suspended in Nouadhibou since the repression of the demonstration organized last Sunday to protest election fraud. The clashes between the police and demonstrators resulted in five dead.

Morocco

King Hassan Meets With Bush in New York

LD3101134692 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] At the beginning of this bulletin, let us touch on the event that is drawing the attention of the whole world and which is being hosted by New York through the participation of the UN Security Council member states at its session: King Hassan II is taking part in this session.

Before the start of the summit, his majesty participated in a series of important activities. Yesterday his majesty met with President George Bush at his excellency's residence in New York. This meeting was attended by Messrs Ahmed Osman, speaker of the House of Representatives; Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; Ahmed Reda Guedira, his majesty's adviser; Ahmed Snoussi, Morocco's UN permanent delegate; General Abdelhak Kadiri; and his majesty's ambassador to Washington.

For the U.S. side the audience was attended by Gen. Brent Scowcroft, presidential adviser for national security affairs; Samuel Skinner, White House chief of staff; and Townsend Friedman, U.S. ambassador to Rabat.

Earlier yesterday his majesty received UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali.

[Rabat MAP in English at 1219 GMT on 31 January, in a similar report on King Hassan's talks with President Bush, states: "The contents of the talks were not disclosed."]

*Minister of State Criticizes Embargo on Iraq

*92AF0306A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
15 Jan 92 p 5*

[Article by Muhammad al-Ashhab: "Hassan II Attends Security Council Member States Summit at End of Month; May Offer Initiative To Alleviate Embargo Imposed on Iraq"]

[Excerpt] Rabat—[passage omitted] Sources don't exclude the possibility that King Hassan II will submit a proposal to alleviate the impact of the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. Moroccan Minister of State Ahmed Alaoui stated yesterday: "In no war, including the two World Wars, have we seen defeated countries kept under blockade.... A distinction has always been made between leaders and peoples. If it is true that Iraq is accused of invading and annexing Kuwait, then it is also true that it has been punished harshly and that there is no need for continuing to saddle the Iraqi people, especially the children and the sick, with the responsibility for their leaders' mistakes."

The minister explained the Moroccan monarch's statement that the embargo has gone too far and emphasized that "there should be no double standards. The victorious Allies did not impose the same sanctions on the countries that were defeated in World War II. To the contrary, they helped them rebuild their economies."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn al-Samarra'i visited Morocco two months ago and pleaded with King Hassan II to work to alleviate the international sanctions imposed on Iraq. [passage omitted]

*PPS Urges Algerians To Avoid Confrontation

*92AF0306B London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
15 Jan 92 p 6*

[Article: "Continued Official Silence in Rabat; Moroccan Party Hopes That Algeria Will Avoid Confrontations That Undermine Its Security"]

[Text] Rabat—The Party of Progress and Socialism [PPS] (the former Communist Party) has expressed its interest in the current developments in Algeria. In the first political statement coming from Rabat, the PPS expressed the hope that "the country (Algeria) will be able to overcome the problems facing it in a manner that preserves its stability and unity and that it will avoid any riots or confrontations which undermine its security and stability." The PPS also expressed the hope that "Algeria will perform its role in the [Arab] Maghreb Union [UMA] family and will bolster the conditions to entrench security and peace in the region."

Morocco's other political forces have continued to cover Algeria's developments with some sort of neutrality and have made no comments on these developments. This contrasts with the position that they had taken toward the outcome of the first round of the legislative elections, which they had characterized as neutral and impartially run elections. Some of forces had gone as far as publishing the [Islamic] Salvation Front's [FIS] program. Others congratulated the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], led by Hocine Ait Ahmed.

Observers are unanimous that the nonissuance of any official comment from Rabat is governed by several considerations, particularly by the consideration that this is an internal Algerian affair, in addition to the wish to prevent Rabat's involvement in conflicts whose outcome nobody knows, and the wish to wait for developments to unfold. This is because Morocco had wagered previously on taking advantage of the constitutional reforms to strengthen relations between Rabat and Algeria. As a consequence, a number of the issues pending between the two countries—such as border demarcation, the conclusion of a fraternity and good-neighbors treaty, and the elimination of the Western Sahara conflict from the axis of the two countries' bilateral relations—have been settled. It doesn't seem as if these accomplishments will be threatened with collapse unless the Western Sahara conflict is escalated. This is what observers watching developments in the region fear most.

What is interesting is that the hopes that Morocco had attached to moving the Arab Maghreb Union to advanced levels of efficiency and political coordination have suffered a setback, especially because Morocco and Algeria have formed the two prominent pivots in this experiment. Rabat has been in the process of developing an economic and strategic vision that takes advantage of the structure of the UMA to bolster cooperation with the EEC member states bordering the Mediterranean Sea, to launch dialogue with other regional blocs, and to accomplish numerous economic goals. However, these hopes have suffered a setback.

Sudan

Coup Attempt Foiled; Three Officers Executed

*NC0402140992 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
2 Feb 92 p 9*

[Unattributed report from "The Brothers" page]

[Text] High-level Sudanese sources have reported that Islamic Front authorities have foiled a suicidal attempt by a number of Sudanese Air Force officers.

The sources said that the officers equipped a helicopter with rockets and planned to attack military and civilian targets, including the building where Sudan's ruling coupist council was meeting. The sources said that an Islamic Front member uncovered the plan and informed military intelligence chief Kamal 'Ali Mukhtar, who immediately gave orders to seize the helicopter before it took off. Three officers were executed near the helicopter. Two other majors escaped.

Government Announces 'Liberation' of Economy

EA0302213592 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Feb (SUNA)—The joint Revolution Command Council [as received] [RCC] and the Council of Ministers Sunday decided normalization and liberation of the Sudanese pound price as well as liberating structure of economy. In a press statement following the council's meeting, the finance and economic planning minister, 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, has said the Bank of Sudan will no more fix official or encouragement rates for currencies. Explaining that the rate will only be fixed by the commercial banking sector.

He noted that the council's decision had transferred the Sudanese economy into a free market one.

Hamdi said the decision reaffirms Sudan freedom of decision and persistence to avert economic blockades and scarcity of hard currency, stressing that all dealings will be taken through the Sudanese pound.

The decision of liberating structurally the economy, said Hamdi, was intended to liberate the production, manufacturing and distribution processes. He pointed out that the liberation of the Sudanese economy meant cancellation of importation 15 commodities whose importation will be under the control of the Customs Department.

Hamdi indicated that the council's decision also led to abolishing of the recent policy of (?retention) and obliging importers to deliver their hard currency to the commercial banks.

He said that the deficit which would result following liberation of the Sudanese pound will be covered by the export tax imposed on crops besides reevaluation of the free rate of the dollar.

Hamdi stressed that these measures will not cause price hikes, adding that the prices of food, materials, petroleum products, medicines and agricultural inputs will not be affected by the decision.

He announced that the prices of sugar and bread will increase, saying details on this increase will be explained during the press conference which he will hold Monday at the premises of Culture and Information Ministry.

Finance Minister Comments

EA0402180592 Khartoum SUNA in French 0950 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Khartoum (SUNA) [dateline as received]—Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning, has denied any link between the publication of the new economic measures, which include setting the exchange rate for the Sudanese pound, and the recent talks between Sudan and the International Monetary Fund, IMF, which took place in Khartoum.

In a news conference on 4 February after a statement [words indistinct] Sudan and the IMF agreed on the general policy of Sudan's economic program, which is based on a radical solution to the country's economic problems.

He pointed out that officials of the Fund sought the devaluation of the currency by setting two rates, one official and the other free, which would be lower than the government's.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hamdi has released a [word indistinct], according to which the import licenses issued in 1973, in accordance with the law on the control of goods, will be withdrawn. Other decisions have reportedly been made forbidding the import of 15 products, and banks will stop importing them or financing their import.

He added that according to the new measures, travelers were allowed to import goods to the tune of $10,000.

Meanwhile, the finance minister has indicated that the government will go ahead with the liberalization of prices.

Bahrain

Shaykh Khalifah Leads Delegation to Turkmenia

JN0502094192 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Manama, 5 Feb (WAKH)—An official Bahraini delegation, led by Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Muhammad Al Khalifah, Bahrain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, left Manama this morning on a visit to Turkmenia, one of the new commonwealth's republics.

The visit falls within the context of Bahrain's policy to strengthen ties with these republics.

Amir, Egypt's Mubarak Discuss Gulf, Arab Issues

JN0402105892 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Manama, 4 Feb (WAKH)—A round of talks was held this morning between Bahraini officials, led by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, and Egyptian officials, led by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Discussion focused on the distinguished fraternal relations existing between the two countries, as well as current developments in the Gulf in particular and in the Arab region in general. The officials also reviewed the peace process in the Middle East and issues of mutual interest.

Mubarak Departs

JN0402110392 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1007 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Manama, 4 Feb (WAKH)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Manama for his home country this morning after a two-day visit to Bahrain. His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, led those who saw the Egyptian president off. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

UN Envoy Says Iraqi Posts Inside Kuwaiti Border

NC0102101992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent representative at the United Nations, has stated that Iraq might need to be forced to respect Kuwait's international border.

In remarks to the press today, Abu-al-Hasan said that Iraq has established several border posts inside Kuwaiti territory in a flagrant violation of the cease-fire agreement that ended the Kuwait liberation war.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Cooperation Memorandum Signed With Canada

LD0402221592 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Sultan Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and general inspector, in his office at the ministry this afternoon, signed a memorandum of understanding related to industrial cooperation in the defense field between the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the government of Canada.

The memorandum was signed on the Canadian side by Mr. Allan Lever, Canada's ambassador to the Kingdom.

Malaysian Defense Minister Concludes Visit

LD0402215792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1750 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Feb (SPA)—Malaysian Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Abdul Razak left Riyadh this evening. He was seen off at King Khalid International Airport by Uthman al-Hamid, assistant minister of defense and aviation, and other officials.

Correction to Item on Public Security Director

PM0302124092

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Public Security Director on 'Sick-Minded People'" published in the 4 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 25:

Paragraph two, sentence one make read: ...authorities will show no mercy to such people... (supplying missing word "no")

Republic of Yemen

Legislature Discusses Participation in Peace Talks

JN0302200392 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Excerpt] During its session this morning under Speaker Brother Dr. Sa'id Yasin Nu'man, the Council of Representatives ended discussion of the invitation extended to our country to participate in the multilateral negotiations within the framework of the third stage of the peace process, after it had asked the government for a general discussion of the issue. The outcome of the council's comprehensive discussion is as follows:

1. The government's decision to participate is dictated by its assessment of the situation from which it proceeded; by the bases it adopted to crystallize this position, namely, its commitment to Resolutions 242 and 338 issued by the United Nations as a basis for solving the Palestine question and the Middle East dispute; and by the Palestinian's participation in any international

conference to end the dispute. However, while making such an important decision, the government should have consulted the legislative authority for approval of such a decision, which implies new elements in terms of the government's foreign policy mentioned in its statement to the Council in July, 1990, as well as the reform program submitted to Council in November 1991, which were approved by the authority.

2. The council views the Yemeni delegation's withdrawal from the conference for the reason explained by the brother foreign minister as a positive position. But this issue cannot be viewed through the principle of participation itself. This principle is related to the fact that the decision to participate is a joint responsibility of all the constitutional bodies rather than a government issue. Therefore, the decision to withdraw, in the view of the council, is not determined only by Palestinian participation, which will end with the end of this condition, but a correction of the whole position.

3. Through following the bilateral negotiations and the Israeli intransigence, the council believes that the third stage of negotiations will not be of value to the peace process in the Middle East unless Israel shows a real eagerness to establish peace by taking a positive position on the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, stopping settlements in the occupied territories, and declaring its readiness to withdraw from the Arab territories it is occupying. Therefore, the council urges the government to take these issues into account before deciding to participate in the peace negotiations, and that it has also to consult the council. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Leaves for Britain, Netherlands

JN0302132492 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani left for London today at the head of a delegation on a four-day official visit at the invitation of his British counterpart Douglas Hurd. He will hold talks on bilateral relations, and issues of mutual interest.

The minister of foreign affairs will later visit the Kingdom of the Netherlands at the invitation of Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Hans van den Broek.

In a statement to SABA', the foreign minister explained that during his visits to Britain and the Netherlands, he will hold important talks on bilateral relations, and on issues of mutual interest on the regional and international levels.

The foreign minister is accompanied on both visits by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

UN Talks on Oil Exports Called Off

JN0502072892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Talks between the United Nations and Iraq on the resumption of Iraqi oil exports have been called off. They were due to resume today in Vienna.

Francois Giuliani, spokesman for the UN secretary general, has said that 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, who was expected to lead his country's delegation to the talks, has informed him of this decision. No clarification has emerged yet as to why the talks were called off.

Giuliani was also unable to confirm whether these talks will be resumed at a later date. Giuliani stated: All I know is that the talks were called off and not just postponed.

Baghdad Message Rejects UN Monitoring of Arms

JN0502125892 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The UN Security Council today reviewed sanctions imposed on Iraq. The UN official in charge of Baghdad's disarmament said last night that Iraq has rejected UN controls on Baghdad's future arms programs.

In a message to the UN commission overseeing the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction, Iraq said it will not accept future monitoring of arms building or purchasing. Mr. Rolf Ekeus, head of the panel, said that Baghdad has complied with the UN efforts to identify and destroy Iraq's nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons potential under terms of a cease-fire agreement. [passage omitted]

SANA—Baghdad Steps Up Deployment in al-Basrah

JN0402112792 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0950 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, 4 Feb (SANA)—The Iraqi regime has deployed its forces at security and military centers in al-Basrah city in a desperate attempt to control the deteriorating security situation in the governorate. Iraqi opposition sources note that these measures are being taken as the sons of the Iraqi people escalate their operations against the head of the Iraqi regime.

In Baghdad, one of the popular groups operating inside the city recently liquidated the examining magistrate of the Public Security Directorate at his home in the al-A'zamiyah area of the city.

The so-called popular council building also was the target of an attack, in which light weapons were employed, at the beginning of this month. Many of the regime's symbols were either killed or wounded in this attack.

The Iraqi opposition sources note that at the beginning of this month the forces of the head of the Iraqi regime deployed some units inside and outside Baghdad. Meanwhile, other forces cordoned off the city of al-Thawrah. Reports from Iraq say that these measures have been taken due to fear of an imminent military coup and in an attempt to terrorize and terrify the people, particularly because the next few days will mark the anniversary of the Iraqi people's uprising.

Popular Forces Clash With Government Troops

NC0302162092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The valiant popular forces have confronted an attack launched by the tyrant's forces against the opposition in al-Hillah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-Basrah. Informed sources report that the popular forces inflicted many casualties on the regime's troops and captured two of their commanders.

In another development, military positions of the defeated regime in the al-Rashid camp and the Air Force command in Baghdad have been the scene of clashes between warring military groups.

Air Force Commanders Discuss Gulf War Tactics

JN0302120892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1924 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Carried within Iraqi television's "The File" program; interview with Staff Major General pilot Safa' Tawfiq Rushdi, assistant Air Force commander for air defense; Maj. Gen. Ahmad Hamzah al-Ja'fari, director of the Antiaircraft Directorate; Staff Brigadier Gen. Shahin Yasin Muhammad, director of air defense tactics; and Staff Brig. Gen. Mahdi Salih Fathi, commander of the Antiaircraft Corps in the Air Force and air defense, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Statistics say that the aggressors carried out more than 110,000 sorties over Iraq during the military aggression. The aggressors' military spokesmen said they would destroy the Iraqi Air Defense within 72 hours. A few days later, they changed their statements giving new estimates of the time required. However, the Iraqi air defense remained active throughout the battle.

We are pleased to host a number of the fighters of the Iraqi air defense to explain this side of the mother of battles.

We will first listen to Staff Maj. Gen. pilot Safa' Tawfiq Rushdi, assistant Air Force commander for air defense. Welcome.

[Rushdi] Thank you.

[Reporter] Will you tell us the role of the air defense in the mother of battles and the preparations you made before and at the beginning of the aggression?

[Rushdi] The air defense made many, large-scale, and accurate preparations before the beginning of the battle on all the levels of air defense formations and units in the country.

Iraqi air defense officials met with leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, and received the continuous instructions to draft precise plans on all levels. The Iraqi air defense was effective, as everybody knows. The air defense was fully ready as of the first minute of 15 January. When the U.S.-Atlantic aircraft violated the international borders, the Iraqi air defense—fighter planes, missiles, and artillery—was lying in wait. Indeed, our fighter planes were able to shoot down many sophisticated U.S. fighter planes such as the F-14, F-15, F-16, and even the Mirage-2000. The air defense planes remained active for many days, and the air defense weapons in general remained active until the end of the battle.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, did Iraqi aircraft participate in this battle? What was the extent of this participation?

[Rushdi] There is no doubt that Iraq's aircraft took part in the battle from the start of the aggression. The Iraqi planes deployed throughout the country took off from the central, western, and southern regions, confronted the enemy planes, and shot down many of them. On the first day only between 20 and 30 formations participated in combat sorties.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, as we heard and as we said at the beginning of this interview, the enemies thought they would wipe out the Iraqi air defense within 72 hours. They were disappointed, however. Did they then change their tactics in the raids and sorties?

[Rushdi] The enemy changed their tactics many times. The aggression aircraft began air attacks at low altitudes at night against vital targets, both military and civilian. The air defense weapons confronted these raids and shot down many planes. The first plane downed by the air defense weapons on the first night was a modern British Tornado, which they boast about and consider the best plane that they have. It was the first to be shot down. Because of the effectiveness of the air defense, the enemy decided to change their tactics. The attacks were carried out at medium altitudes, day and night. The enemy was forced to fly at high altitudes at night only due to the losses of its planes.

During the first three weeks no enemy planes were seen over Baghdad during the daytime because the enemy was afraid that the air defense would inflict losses.

[Reporter] During this period they also used long-range missiles, cruise missiles.

[Rushdi] In fact, the U.S.-Zionist enemy used very large quantities of these missiles. They are very sophisticated missiles and were designed to be used against major powers such as the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries. They, however, were used for the first time in military history against vital targets. These missiles are very expensive; they also are accurate. Many of these missiles were fired. The Iraqi air defense managed to effectively shoot down many of these missiles and prevented them from reaching their targets. The air defense shot down such missiles, which are small and fast; they (?are fired) at very low altitudes. Shooting down such missiles is not easy, but the air defense managed to shoot down dozens of them.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, we heard that special weapons were used against radar systems.

[Rushdi] Yes, the enemy planned to use many missiles against radar systems to paralyze them during the first days, as it claimed. [words indistinct] the U.S. forces alone fired 2,100 missiles from the most sophisticated weapons against the radar systems. Despite this, if they were to see the results of their strikes, they would be greatly disappointed, because they destroyed only a very small number of these radar systems. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Maj. Gen. Ahmad Hamzah al-Ja'fari, director of the Antiaircraft Directorate, will tell us about the role of the Antiaircraft Directorate and the preparations before and during the battle.

[Al-Ja'fari] Although our weapons were not equal to the enemy air defense weapons, we managed to down more than 150 enemy planes in the war. On this day in 1991, we managed to shoot down 20 planes.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] later we heard in the communiques that there are air targets. [Words indistinct] what is meant here is planes and missiles.

[Al-Ja'fari] Yes, like the (?Scud) missiles, we dealt with them as we would deal with a plane. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Despite the continuous raids on Iraq, which according to statistics reached an average of 2,500 raids a day, the Iraqi air defense and Iraqi aircraft continued activities according to the plans for the Mother of Battles. On 30 January, or 14 days after the aggression, Iraqi aircraft carried out a daring, clear, and planned strike against enemy aircraft with Operation Samarra'. Staff Brig. Gen. Shahin Yasin Muhammad, director of air defense tactics [harakat], will speak about this operation.

[Muhammad] Pursuant to the instructions of the leader president, may God protect him, to break the might of the enemies in terms of air superiority and to carry out interception operations at the appropriate time, a plan was prepared to confront the enemy aircraft while the enemy planes were near the air bases [words indistinct]. Operation Samarra' was prepared. In accordance with this plan, planes were to be on high alert at different bases. The aim was to carry out a swift operation at the appropriate time against the enemy aircraft. The planes took off from the Samarra' region.

[Reporter] Can we see this on our map of the region here?

[Muhammad] [Words indistinct] Two planes were deployed from each base. The aim was to take off at the appropriate time to confront the enemy planes coming from Saudi Arabia—from here, from the East, from the West, or from any direction. [passage omitted] Two enemy planes were destroyed. Thus, we disproved the enemy's thinking and proved that our air defense could pursue planes at any time (?and in any place).

[Reporter] The CBS correspondent described the fire of the Iraqi air defenses while confronting the enemy aircraft as a Christmas tree full of lights. Staff Brig. Gen. Mahdi Salih Fathi, commander of the Antiaircraft Corps in the Air Force and air defense, will speak about the role of antiaircraft weapons in confronting the enemy aircraft.

[Fathi] In fact, the U.S. network correspondent did not want to say that the pilots were facing hell, so he used the Christmas tree description. The antiaircraft weapons played an honorable role. [Words indistinct] a simple comparison between the weapons of the 33 or more states and our potential in the Iraqi state, we can say that our steadfastness was effective. [passage omitted]

Hammadi Article Notes Significance of Gulf War

JN0402142292 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 4, INA—Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi [former prime minister dismissed in September 1991] has confirmed that Iraq uncontestedly took the initiative at both Arab and international levels because it has borne the burden of the dual and responsibility of leadership and has been offering dear sacrifices, materially and in human for that. [sentence as received]

He has further said that in an article today published by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily that the battle which the Iraqi people has fought in the mother of battles acquires particular importance at the current international situation. For it is the first brave resistance in the new international stage of the Western colonialism represented by the United States of America and Zionism for controlling the area and acting individually upon the world's affairs in general and the Third World in particular.

Dr. Hammadi has added that the mother of battles came to stir up resistance and rejection among liberated peoples in the world of all forms of American hegemony on the world affairs, and it represents an introduction of struggle for the liberation of Palestine and unification of the Arab homeland.

Dr. Hammadi has further clarified that the battle which is going to be the first example and excellent pattern of struggle, has proved purity of the principles and bravery and wisdom of the Iraqi leadership that has occupied a good position at the level of Iraq and rather the level of the Arab nation of the world. [sentence as received]

Dr. Hammadi has concluded his article by saying: I can see the masses of our people in Iraq and the masses of the Arab nation are rallying behind the leadership of President Saddam Husayn in a series of the battles of construction, progress and liberation so that to achieve in full the national expectations and realize the Arab unified community.

Sharon—U.S. Funds Not For Building Settlements

TA0402160192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Remarks by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon during a tour of upper Nazareth "this afternoon"—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The funds we have requested from the United States are earmarked for the absorption of immigrants. We do not settle immigrants in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; we neither move immigrants there, nor do we talk them into moving there, nor direct them there. Out of the 407,000 immigrants who arrived in Israel in the past two and a half years, less than 4,000 people moved there; this is less than 1 percent.

To conclude, the loans we will receive on these guarantees—and I hope we will get them—are not designated for construction in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Government Agrees To 24 Feb Talks in Washington

TA0502054092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Israeli sources in Washington say the next round of peace talks will take place on 24 February. The talks were postponed at the request of the United States, to allow Secretary of State James Baker to complete his tour of the former Soviet republics and to be present for the talks.

The sources said Israel consented to hold the talks again in Washington after receiving indications from the Arab delegations that they would agree on Europe as the location of the next round of negotiations.

Sale of U.S. Jets to Saudis 'Source of Concern'

TA0502122992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Feb 92 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The final decision of the U.S. Administration to sell Saudi Arabia 72 F-15E jets is a source of concern in Israel. A report on the American intention to approve the deal has been relayed to political and defense officials in Jerusalem. The issue has also been discussed by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Air Force sources believe that Israel's aerial supremacy will not be affected if the planes are sold to the Saudis. A senior Air Force source said that these are top planes, which can operate at night and perform tasks no Arab air force has been able to do so far.

Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that Israel has to make moves in the U.S. Administration to foil the deal. "We have no doubt that the Americans are going for the deal. The issue has been raised in political and defense circles a number of times. We are not certain they will deliver all 72 planes.

"I believe they will deliver 24 planes in the first shipment. It is impossible to make a distinction between giving such very sophisticated weapons systems to an Arab country that does not have a peace agreement with Israel, and the Middle East arms race in general. The fact that Saudi Arabia attended the Moscow talks does not make it a country at peace with Israel," Ben-Elisar said.

A defense source last night made it clear that "the United States already knows just how much Israel worries about the issue."

Brigadier General Eytan Ben-Eliyahu, Air Force chief of staff, recently referred to the arms deal. According to him "the Saudi appetite for advanced weapons undoubtedly stems from the Gulf war lessons, one of the most significant of which is the need to attain air supremacy."

Brig. Gen. Ben-Eliyahu added: "The Saudis have almost no budgetary constraints, and the size of their country allows them freedom to maneuver. This must be taken into account when dealing with future scenarios. It is possible that the strategic depth they have might lead them to believe that they are under no immediate danger. This assumption—under certain circumstances—could bring the Saudis to support an eastern front against us, if not to actively take part in it." [passage omitted]

Knesset Bill Approves Elections for 23 Jun

TA0402211492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] This evening the Knesset passed the third and final hearing of the bill of early elections and the Knesset disbandment. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the elections will be held on 23 June, and the Knesset will disband on 17 March. The bill was approved by 22 Knesset members, with no opposition or abstentions.

Army Responds to Betzelem Report on Discrimination

TA0402115892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Feb 92 p A5

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] Betzelem, the information center for human rights in the territories, released a report yesterday dealing with "restrictions on the right to demonstrate and protest in the territories." The report contends that the Israeli authorities discriminate between various sectors of the population.

The report says the authorities heavily curtail the freedom of political expression—including the right to demonstrate—of Palestinians in the territories and even of Israelis who object to the government's settlement policy, but are extremely indulgent with regard to demonstrations and protests held by settlers. According to

the report, the authorities restrict the right to demonstrate in the territories based on military decree No. 101, which bans acts of agitation and hostile propaganda.

In theory, any Palestinian may apply for a license to hold a "march" or an "assembly." Palestinians began to do so only recently, however, because the authorities usually did not allow them to hold political demonstrations.

The authorities displayed relative openness after the Madrid conference, when they allowed Palestinians to hold dozens of political rallies, assemblies, and mass demonstrations while bearing olive branches. Nevertheless, the Army's conduct was inconsistent. In some places, demonstrators were dispersed and brought to trial on charges of participation in an illegal demonstration and agitation.

The Betzelem report contends that the authorities ban activities that do not require a license, such as protest vigils, particularly by declaring closed military zones. In contrast, the Army does not ban or prevent settlers from staging protests and political demonstrations, which are occasionally escorted by soldiers.

The report concludes that unequal enforcement of the law with regard to the right to demonstrate in the territories "reflects political considerations that affect the enforcement policy. This highlights the politicization of the military apparatus."

The report further notes that "thanks to the situation created in the territories after the beginning of the political process and the demonstrations with olive branches—which denoted a new mood—the authorities had an opportunity to encourage new norms of nonviolent political expression within this sector of the population and to contribute to the creation of a positive atmosphere in the territories, but they did not seize it."

The report includes the reaction of Colonel Moshe Rosenberg, the legal adviser in the West Bank, who says that until not too long ago only Jews applied for licenses to hold assemblies or marches. "Only in the past few months have the Palestinians begun applying for licenses to hold closed rallies, and the authorities have granted them as long as there have been no special security considerations," he notes.

Rosenberg adds: "We want to encourage such requests because of their positive connotation. The situation is different, however, when it comes to marches because they can take a bad turn."

Reacting to the Betzelem report, the Israeli Army spokesman says security legislation in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip bans demonstrations, marches, and assemblies unless they have been approved by the military commander. The latter will approve or ban a demonstration or march on the basis of legal, security, and public order considerations alone, the spokesman notes.

"The Army does not discriminate between people or institutions applying for a permit to hold a demonstration or an assembly. Every case is discussed on merit, according to the circumstances, time, and venue of the gathering. The Army allows demonstrations to the extent possible and taking security needs and public order into consideration, occasionally imposing restrictions on their venue or time," the spokesman concludes.

East Jerusalem Resident Dies in Shin Bet Facility

TA0502092292 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Feb 92 p 7

[Report by Yoram Binur and Shlomo Dror]

[Excerpt] Mustafa 'Akhawi (33), who was being held in detention in the Shin Bet interrogation facility in Hebron, died in his cell. Two days ago, when the Hebron Military Court discussed the extension of his detention, 'Akhawi complained that he had been beaten, and he showed marks of violence on his body. The judge, Major Muqi Knobler, decided the detention would be extended by only eight days. He wrote in his resolution: "There is suspicion in my mind that his remarks are founded. The questioning authorities must protect people in their custody." He ordered that 'Akhawi immediately undergo a medical examination and instructed that a complaint on the issue be filed with the Hebron Police Department.

'Akhawi was detained a week ago, as part of the detention of members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. His attorney, Le'a Zemel, yesterday filed an appeal with the High Court of Justice regarding the method of his interrogation.

'Akhawi is a resident of Wadi al-Jawz [in East Jerusalem]; he is married and has a child. In 1985, he was imprisoned for 10 months.

'Akhawi's family last night demanded that the autopsy be performed in the presence of an independent pathologist. The Anti-Torture Association, which reported the incident, stated it will help to bring such a pathologist to Israel.

There is another difficulty, relating to the fact that 'Akhawi, a Jerusalem resident, was questioned in Hebron. Transferring detainees from Jerusalem to the territories for questioning is allegedly against the law stipulating that detainees must be questioned in the area in which they reside. In the past, attorneys for East Jerusalem detainees have filed complaints that their clients were being transferred to the territories.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Shin Bet sources last night avoided comment on this because the death occurred when 'Akhawi was being held in a Shin Bet detention facility, which is under the sole responsibility of the Shin Bet.

In the past, charges have been published regarding incidents in Shin Bet facilities. Among other things, last

month HADASHOT reported that a Nablus inmate complained he was raped in his cell. [passage omitted]

Territories Incidents Reported, Fugitive Sought

TA0502123792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Feb 92 p A7

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] A reserve soldier was slightly injured yesterday when an Arab attacked him at the Jamma'in junction south of Nabulus. The soldier shot his assailant, wounded and overpowered him. [passage omitted]

Yesterday afternoon, a firebomb was thrown at the car of Major General Dani Yatom, Central Command commander, while he was touring Nabulus, near the Balatah refugee camp. The firebomb exploded, but no damage was caused and no one was hurt. [passage omitted]

Two residents of Dayr al-Balah, in the Gaza Strip, were murdered yesterday, probably on suspicion of collaboration with the authorities. One of them was a 40-year-old woman. Palestinian sources reported that three Arab Gaza Strip residents were injured in clashes with the Army yesterday. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, yesterday reprimanded three officers—a lieutenant colonel, a major, and a first lieutenant. The three were found responsible for an incident in which a security prisoner, Salim al-'Adini, escaped while being taken to the Qezi'ot detention center six days ago. [passage omitted]

The fugitive has so far not been captured. It is believed that he has managed to get out of Israel, but he may still be hiding in the border area. The search for him continues.

Foreign Minister Back From Nonaligned Meeting

JN0502125392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir returned to Amman this morning after heading Jordan's delegation to the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers' meetings which ended in Larnaca yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

Abu-Jabir—Relations With Iran 'Getting Better'

LD0402093192 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Larnaca, Feb. 3, IRNA—Jordan's Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir Monday said on relations between Jordan and Iran: "They are good and getting better." He told IRNA here that he would like to visit Tehran as soon as he gets the opportunity.

The Jordanian foreign minister is here to attend the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] which started earlier today. He told IRNA that the Nonaligned Movement is today more important than in the past. "When there was a bipolar world, the Third World people had an alternative to go to. Now in the unipolar world the role of NAM is more important, "Abu-Jabir said.

He is one the 18 foreign ministers taking part in a two-day meeting of NAM aimed at chalking out a new role for the 102-nation movement following dramatic changes in the world. According to Abu-Jabir the Larnaca meeting was of utmost importance as the future of NAM was at stake.

U.S. Concern for Democracy Called 'Big Lie'

JN0502112392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Feb 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Death Certificates, Not Certificates of Good Conduct"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department can issue death certificates, but it certainly cannot award certificates of good conduct. Those who find pleasure in murdering children have no right to judge the parents of those children. When the Americans continue to slaughter Iraqi children—and since they have always continued to keep silent over the massacres that were committed against other Arab children—they are choosing their natural place. Murderers stay in the slaughterhouse. They cannot stay for one minute in children's gardens or playing fields and inside their kindergartens; nor can they stand to see children enjoying food, medicine, warmth, and toys.

The U.S. State Department did not rank us among the states that do not respect human rights. It, however, did not stop punishing us because we respect these rights. Neither has it stopped intensifying the blockade against us whenever we continue to move toward entrenching democracy in our country.

As Washington continues to intimate that it will provide aid and political and financial, and even media backing to the states that adopt democracy and respect human rights in practice, we, and this is an undeniable fact, in this country—as people, leadership, press, democracy, free expression, and human rights—are a target for an existing U.S. aggression that takes many forms, which everyone is aware of. So, where is the U.S. respect for democracy in our country? Where is the U.S. appreciation for our concern about human rights? And, why do the Americans continue to harm us, and, at the same time, keep silent over scandals and disasters against democracy and human rights in countries whose alliance with the United States provides the justification for bringing about all these scandals and disasters.

The United States has no right to claim concern about democracy; the Gulf crisis has exposed that big lie. It has put the entire world face to face with the myth of honest media, courageous media, and liberal media when all western media organs were put under the control and supervision of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency; when the truth was concealed from the American and European citizens and from all people in the world; when a blind eye is turned to the systematic murder, by the United States and its allies, of Iraq's children and old and sick people; and when the true U.S. and western "heroism" was revealed when Iraqi troops were encircled by tanks, had their hands tied behind their backs, and then buried alive.

"Heroes" at that level of heroism and with such ethics and concern for values and principles are, as we have said, capable of issuing death certificates, but they are not qualified to award certificates of good conduct. They are doing so, however, because the new world order wants it that way.

No Invitation Received to Upcoming Peace Talks

JN0402185092 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 92

['Abdallah al-Dardari dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Syria has not yet received any U.S. invitation to participate in the new round of bilateral talks in Washington. This was stressed by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Larnaca yesterday, when he said that there was nothing official yet. The U.S. invitation is supposed to determine the date and venue of the negotiations and solve the discrepancy between Arab and Israeli positions concerning this issue.

Syria proposed 10 February as date for the resumption of the negotiations in Washington, provided that they continue up to 28 February at least, and that they discuss substantive issues. Damascus rejects Israel's procrastination, which is meant to reduce the period of the negotiations, confine discussions to bilateral topics, and move the talks to the Middle East.

Reliable sources say that during the upcoming round, the Syrian delegation will emphatically demand Israel's withdrawal and recognition of Palestinian rights, and will refuse to discuss any subject outside this framework.

Loan Approval to Israel 'Serious Threat' to Peace

JN0502113092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Damascus, 5 Feb (SANA)—TISHRIN says in its editorial today that from now until 21 February, when the U.S. Congress discusses the U.S. loan guarantees, there will be a great deal of talk, especially in the Israeli entity, about settlements. Maneuvers and means of extortion will be escalated to obtain the loan guarantees.

The paper adds that the U.S. Administration's approval of the $10 million in loan guarantees to Israel would pose a serious threat to the peace process. The United States would be giving Israel the legitimacy to build settlements and keep the occupied Arab territories, which is directly contrary to the requirements and rules of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Would Give Shamir 'Green Light'

JN0502093992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Press review]

[Excerpts] TISHRIN says U.S. credibility is put to the test through political efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The United States would raise doubts about its credibility if it backs down on its pledges and positions, which condemn Israel's settlement policy and do not recognize Israel's annexation of the occupied Arab territories.

The paper adds: The provision of U.S. assistance to Israel and the approval of loan guarantees to it would, undoubtedly, constitute a cover and a green light for Shamir's government or any new Israeli government to persist further in the expansionist, aggressive, and settlement policy against Arab territories. It would also help Israel maintain the volatile and explosive situation in the region and undermine the chances and hopes raised through the launching of a peace process on the basis of right and justice.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The United States knows that there can be no peace with continued occupation, and that the settlement activity is the salient feature of this occupation and the firm and strategic policy pursued by the Israeli officials to control and keep the Arab land. [passage omitted]

In an article, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel has once again misled the world community by freezing the mechanism of the government and the political decision-making process in the Zionist entity. The two major political parties, the Labor and the Likud, have recently agreed to dissolve the Knesset and to advance the date of general elections from fall to early summer this year. AL-THAWRAH adds: By this agreement, Israel has proved that it is the most malicious in finding elusive tactics to evade any serious confrontation with the requirements of a just and comprehensive solution to the crisis of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question—a solution based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land- for-peace principle.

For its part, AL-BA'TH says the announcement of early elections in the entity of the Zionist enemy was neither surprising nor a reflection of differences between Shamir and others. Rather, it was part of the constant attempts which the enemy has been making to hinder the peace process since it began in Madrid. AL-BA'TH says that this policy, which embodies a clear defiance of international legitimacy, may last a long time if the Arabs fail to adhere to the strategic constants that enables them to regain their national rights and usurped lands.

Al-Shar' Back From Nonaligned Meeting in Cyprus

JN0502081092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus last night after participating in the meetings of the ministerial committee on the Nonaligned Movement's plan of action, which were held on 3 and 4 February in Larnaca, Cyprus.

On the sidelines of these meetings, the foreign minister met with the Yugoslav acting foreign minister, Milivoje Maksic, who informed Mr. al-Shar' of the latest developments in Yugoslavia. Mr. al-Shar' also met with PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi. They discussed the PLO's position with regard to the Moscow multilateral meetings. In addition, Al-Shar' met with Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for external liason and international cooperation, at noon yesterday. Their discussion dealt with the current Arab situation.

Afghanistan

Khaleqyar Meets Russian Envoy, Discusses Wheat

LD0402122692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister's Press Office reports to BAKHTAR that Esteemed Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met this morning at the prime minister's palace with His Excellency Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador of the Russian Federation in Kabul, for a working meeting. During this meeting talks were conducted on acceleration of the delivery of wheat from the Republic of Kazakhstan to Afghanistan, the issue of the sale and delivery of Afghanistan's gas, the creation of an average size fuel refinery in the country, and forming and making active a hospital for endo-process [as heard in English] of the upper and main joints with the assistance of the Russian Federation.

Government Media Now Urging Closer Pakistan Ties

BK0502080692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0604 GMT 5 Feb 92

[By Anosh Ahamath]

[Text] Kabul, Feb 5 (AFP)—The government-controlled media in Afghanistan, long engaged in a propaganda war against Pakistan, has done a U-turn following Islamabad's radical change in its Afghan policy.

Prompted by calls from the Kabul leadership for normalised ties between the two neighbours, the state-run media, which carried out a virulent anti-Pakistan campaign for years, now heaps praise on Islamabad.

The change of heart has been well orchestrated, with comments from President Najibollah, Premier Fazl Haq Khaleqyar and Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil that the two Moslem nations should bury the hatchet and concentrate on trade.

Khaleqyar has proposed wide-ranging economic cooperation and the resumption of civilian flights between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The KABUL TIMES has stopped publishing alleged Pakistani violations of the Geneva accord since Islamabad announced January 27 that it would support a UN peace plan for Afghanistan and urged the Afghan mojahedin to toe the line.

Previously, the English-language daily would spotlight Kabul's complaints to the UN office here of the alleged Pakistani violations of the 1988 Geneva pact, which committed Kabul and Islamabad to non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

UN officials, however, said that they were still getting complaints.

"Pakistan is fully convinced that should peace be restored in Afghanistan, the presence of the ruling regime in Kabul in the future leadership of the country shall not pose any threats to the interests of Pakistan," the KABUL TIMES said in a commentary.

State-run television echoes the new sentiment, broadcasting every bit of information on Afghanistan emanating out of Islamabad.

"We are putting the ball into their court. They have to play it back," said a senior government official.

Relations between Islamabad and Kabul have been tense since the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Pakistan then began providing sanctuary and military backing to the seven main Afghan rebel factions.

Afghan Minister of Civil Aviation Wadir Safi said the government was ready "at any time" to reopen air services with Pakistan, which were halted nearly 10 years ago.

"The resumption of flights between our countries will help to decrease the political tension," Safi said.

Residents here believe that Pakistan's change in its Afghan policy has greatly improved chances for peace in this war-torn country. But many doubt if there can be "real peace" without the participation of hardline mojahedin groups, who have rejected appeals for a dialogue with Kabul.

Despite the 13-year civil war, Afghan traders have been doing roaring business with their counterparts in Pakistan. Businessmen say the value of the dollar in Peshawar greatly influences the greenback's value in Kabul.

"The war has not disturbed our businessmen. The door to Pakistan has always been open to our traders. They have always had excellent relations with businessmen in Pakistan," said Abdul Rahman Ahmadzai, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Diplomats in Kabul stress that peace in Afghanistan would benefit Pakistan because Islamabad could expand trade with the former Soviet republics by using a vital Afghan highway that links Pakistan to the Central Asian republics.

Bangladesh

Ministry Says Burmese Border Under Control

BK0402132092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] The Bangladesh foreign minister told the parliament Monday [3 February] that peaceful settlement of international disputes is one of the cardinal principles of the foreign policy of Bangladesh. He was commenting on the incident of Myanmar attack on a border post in Cox's Bazaar and the problem of continued flow of Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh.

He said border tension has subsided completely after the third flag meeting at Muangdaw and the situation along the border is now peaceful and is under full control.

The foreign minister said the flow of refugees from Myanmar has decreased, but they are still coming in. So far estimated 42,000 to 45,000 refugees have crossed into Bangladesh. He said a list of over 4,600 refugees of the first phase was handed over to the Myanmar ambassador in Dhaka on Sunday.

India

Government Protests Pakistan's Kashmir Strike Call

BK0402130892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] India has strongly protested to the call of the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, for a nationwide strike tomorrow for what he called to observe the day of solidarity with the people of Kashmir. New Delhi considers it a blatant attempt to interfere in India's internal affairs. An External Affairs spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the statement of Mr. Nawaz Sharif is not in keeping with the spirit of recent discussions he had with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in Davos, Switzerland. It raises doubts about Pakistan's sincerity toward the efforts being made by the two sides to reduce tension and build mutual confidence and trust.

The External Affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, has said that Pakistan's continued involvement to subvert the democratic process in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir by providing aid to terrorist elements is the main cause for the strained relations between New Delhi and Islamabad. In an exclusive interview with ANI [ASIA NEWS INTERNATIONAL] in Larnaca, Cyprus, he pointed out that it is now widely acknowledged that Islamabad has been actively involved in fostering terrorist activities directed against India. The External Affairs minister is now in the Cyprus city of Larnaca to attend the Nonaligned foreign ministers meeting.

Parties Condemn Strike Call

BK0402161992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Political parties today condemned the Pakistan prime minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif's call for a general strike tomorrow. Describing it as an interference in India's internal affairs, the CPI [Communist Party of India] said it is an instigation to violate the line of control. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] said that Mr. Sharif's bellicose stand soon after his meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, can only be seen as an attempt to sow deeper the seeds of discord. It said any solution to the Kashmir issue should be only on the basis of the Simla agreement. The party also expressed shock over the insinuative remarks made by the Pakistan high commissioner to India, Mr. Abdul Sattar.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, charged Pakistan with behaving like a terrorist state. He said that the frantic goings on in Pakistan are signs of desperation. He also took exception to the Pakistan high commissioner's remarks.

The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said that Pakistan Government has violated the Simla agreement by giving this call.

Commentary Says Call 'Ominous'

BK0502051492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Commentary by Air Commodore Jagsit Singh—apparently read by Jagsit Singh]

[Text] Mr. Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, a calling for a general strike in Pakistan on the so-called Solidarity Day by itself is a serious business, but I think when you see this in combination with other events, the implications are even more ominous.

We have had escalation of the proxy war that Pakistan has been fighting in Kashmir for the last three and half years. We have also seen the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] giving a call for a massive amount of so-called volunteers to charge across the Line of Control on the 11th of February. Two years ago, almost to the date, Nawaz Sharif as the chief minister of Punjab had encouraged and allowed a very large number of 4,000 to 5,000 people to try and attempt the crossing of the international border, which had resulted in some serious incidents. At the same time, the prime minister of Pakistan's call for this bundh [strike] has been preceded only a few hours earlier by the Pakistan High Commissioner in Delhi making some very very strong and, one would say, not only undiplomatic statements, but in a way threatening statements, which is very unusual, especially for a seasoned diplomat like the High Commissioner is.

When you see all these things [and] events against the backdrop of Pakistan's support to militancy [and] terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir, and at the same time [when] you see the escalation that is visible in the proxy war, on to attempts to force the lines, and given the timing not only of this 11th of February and the attempt at the moment of Nawaz Sharif also in the context of the forthcoming elections in Punjab, then one can look at some of the implications very quickly.

Number one, that all around there has been a failure of Pakistan's basic fundamental pillars of foreign policy—whether it is related to the United States relationship or Afghanistan policy. Major shifts have been necessitated by the earlier shortsighted militaristic foreign policy—and therefore, it appears, the compulsion to escalate on

the Indian Kashmir and terrorist front. Secondly, it is the question of trying to disrupt the democratic political process, which with a great deal of difficulty one hopes to establish in Punjab, because at the very minimum, it might well be to disrupt the electoral process by posing a threat of escalation and potential crisis and war. I think we would have to be very very careful in the coming days and watch it very carefully and Pakistan needs to be told in no uncertain terms of the dangers in this process, which may well be because of internal struggle for leadership. But there is a pattern to this which we cannot ignore.

Burmese Ambassador Presents Credentials

BK0502103092 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0906 GMT 5 Feb 92

["Spokesman's statement on Myanmar [Burma]: Date 3-2-92"]

[Text] The spokesman, while briefing newsmen, announced that ambassador-designate of Union of Myanmar [Burma], His Excellency U Win Lwin today presented his credentials to President R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House].

The spokesman said that while welcoming the new ambassador of Myanmar to India, President Venkataraman expressed India's concern over the delay and uncertainty in enabling elected representatives of the people to form a popular government in Myanmar. The president further expressed the hope that the demand of the people for a multi-party democracy, restoration of basic human rights, and release of political prisoners, will receive due consideration. The president said that India was looking forward to the day when distinguished leader Aung San Suu Kyi is released from house arrest. The president said that the people of India greatly admire her unique leadership under banners of nonviolence and peaceful struggle for democracy, which was based on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

The spokesman elaborated that the president said that as the largest democracy in the world and as a friendly neighbour, India hoped for an early and peaceful transition to democracy in Myanmar. It would be in consonance with the emergence of democratic institutions in other countries in the region and elsewhere in the world.

Portuguese President Concludes Visit

LD0502100392 Lisbon RDP Internacional in Portuguese 0700 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Excerpt] President Mario Soares has ended his 10-day visit to India. Speaking at the end of his trip in Bombay, Soares stated he had achieved all the goals he had set for this visit. He said that political, economic, and cultural relations had been consolidated and old resentments and mistrusts had been dispelled. Soares listed the economic protocols signed by several Portuguese-Indian chambers of commerce and industry and announced the visit by Portuguese investors to India.

As for culture, Soares obtained a formal promise from the Indian prime minister and from the Goa State Government that a Portuguese Consulate would be able to open in Goa.

For Mario Soares his visit was important because it created a tide of friendly feelings toward Portugal, something that cannot be expressed in financial terms, he added. In his opinion the visit to the State of Goa was a delicate matter because the 30th anniversary of its integration into India is approaching. [passage omitted]

Bomb Explodes at TV Station

BK0402155792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] In Srinagar, a bomb expioded at the Doordarshan [television] complex this evening. No one was injured.

Iran

President Chairs National Security Council Meeting

NC0502083992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired a Supreme National Security Council meeting yesterday which was attended by all the members and political and military advisers.

122 Officers Pensioned Off Amid Coup Rumors

TA0302093992 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0645 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] At an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday, 29 January, attended by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the regime's leaders decided to dismiss 122 senior and noncommissioned [NCO] Army officers and issued a decree pensioning off these military personnel.

Recent rumors of a military coup have alarmed the regime's leaders.

Government Accused of Sending Hit Squads to Turkey

NC0402110592 (Clandestine) Voice.of Mojahedin in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] The Khomeyni regime, beleaguered by deadly internal and external crises, is seeking to cover up the reasons for [words indistinct]. The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] has issued a statement announcing that based on reports from inside Iran, the Khomeyni regime has dispatched abroad terrorist squads of special Qods Guards to assassinate the mojahedin and foreign diplomats.

According to the report, murder squads led by Mohammad Chupani, from the Guards Corps' Hamzeh base in Orumiyeh, and by Guard Hoseyn-e Shams, recently arrived in Istanbul. Shams commanded terrorist operations in 1986 in Pakistan against Iranian refugees who supported the MKO.

The MKO office revealed that one of the Guards, Sajjadian, and 'Aziz Khaledi, who were involved in the murder of Dr. Kazem Rajavi, the Iranian resistance's representative in Geneva, recently arrived in Izmir, Turkey. The two are in contact with Sirus Naseri, the Khomeyni regime's terrorist-diplomat in Geneva. These Guards' actions have been coordinated by terrorist-diplomats in Europe, principally the criminal Sirus Naseri.

Defenders of human rights and victims of the mullahs regime's terrorism are astonished by these criminal terrorists being introduced as Human Rights Commission deputies.

The MKO office emphasized: The MKO of Iran draws countries' attention to the Khomeyni regime's terrorist provocations so that it will not be able to organize new murders outside Iran. Any privileges afforded the terrorists who rule will encourage them in their atrocities.

PFLP's Habash Invited for Treatment in Tehran

TA0402123992 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0645 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Reliable sources report that leaders of the Islamic Republic have invited George Habash to visit Tehran to resume his treatment and that the Islamic Republic is ready to receive him.

Red Crescent Society Sends Food to Nakhichevan

LD0402120692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society has so far sent 1,000 tonnes of food to the Muslim Republic of Nakhichevan. Mr. Dastjerdi, head of the country's Red Crescent Society, announced this in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent in Babol.

He added: In continuation of the humanitarian efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, our Red Crescent Society has also sent large amounts of medicine and clothing and several power generators to Nakhichevan, as well as food. He stated: The society's aid to Yugoslavia and Afghanistan will also continue.

Envoy to Islamabad, UN Envoy Discuss Afghan War

LD0102181592 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 1 IRNA—Latest developments in Afghanistan and efforts to restore peace in that country were discussed in a meeting on Saturday between Iran's ambassador here Javad Mansuri and U.N. secretary general's special envoy on Afghanistan Benon V. Sevon.

The U.N. envoy praised Iran's stand vis-a-vis the U.N. five-point plan on settlement of the Afghan issue proposed by former U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He said he had met with several Afghan mojahedin leaders in Peshawar regarding a conference proposed by the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali in which all Afghan groups and figures are to participate.

Sevon is scheduled to hold meetings with some other mojahedin leaders within the next few days and depart for Tehran shortly to consult with Iranian officials and the mojahedin leaders residing in Iran.

Mansuri voiced Iran's support for the five-point plan and the current efforts to solve the Afghan crisis. Sevon arrived here last Tuesday and is to visit Kabul, Moscow and Riyadh besides Tehran.

Embassy Denies Opposing UN Plan

LD0102180592 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 31, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Friday denied reports by the Pakistani press alleging that Tehran was against the U.N. five-point plan on settlement of the Afghan issue.

The embassy statement said, on the contrary the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the former U.N. secretary general's plan as positive step towards solution of the Afghan crisis, and that it continues to lend support to efforts underway for return of peace to Afghanistan. The statement also reiterated that Iran and Pakistan have common viewpoints regarding the Afghan issue.

The Pakistani press on Thursday quoting the German radio claimed that the Islamic Republic opposes the United Nations' Afghan plan.

Last Monday, Pakistan announced its unconditional support for the plan and on the same day the new U.N. Secretary General Butrus Ghali said that he was ready to convene a conference with participation of all Afghan groups and figures in this regard.

Nepal & Bhutan

Premier To Visit China, Downplays Visit by Taiwan

BK0402074892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 4 (AFP)—Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has announced he will pay a six-day official visit to Beijing in March at the invitation of the Chinese Premier Li Peng.

In an interview with AFP, Koirala said he would reach the Chinese capital on March 14 and return home on March 19.

"My visit to Beijing would help further strengthen our bilateral cooperation and friendly relations," he said.

He described the state of relations between China and Nepal as "very good and without any problems."

Koirala, who was elected prime minister in May last year, visited India last December to help solve the three-year-old row over trade and transit problems between the two neighbours.

The prime minister played down the importance of a visit to Nepal by a political and business delegation from Taiwan and the controversy created when one of his assistant ministers attended a party hosted in honour of the visiters.

Koirala said: "The Taiwanese came to Nepal unofficially and no formal receptions were hosted.

"I have already inquired with my assistant minister for Commerce and Local Supplies Diwakar Man Sherchan about his presence at the reception hosted by the local business community in honour of the Taiwanese delegation."

Asked whether he was going to ask Sherchan to resign on this issue, Koirala said: "I don't think so but I have already instructed Sherchan to refrain from such things in future."

Nepal does not recognize the Taiwan Government though the Taiwan goods are imported to Nepal through Hong Kong and Singapore.

Pakistan

'Crucial Decision' on Kashmiri Crossing Viewed

BK0502052292 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Feb 92 pp 1, 5

[By Tariq Butt]

[Excerpts] Islamabad—When Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif lands back home from Geneva, a crucial decision that he will have to take relates to the call of a militant Kashmiri group to cross the Line of Control (LOC) on February 11.

According to the programme announced by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) headed by Amanullah Khan, its activists will leave Rawalpindi on Febuary 9 in a procession for Muzaffarabad. They will go to the border with the occupied Kashmir and plan crossing the LOC at noon on February 11. [passage omitted]

The position of almost all AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] parties on the call is ambivalent, and so is that of the Azad Kashmir Government. They cannot support it and neither can they oppose it for obvious reasons.

Sources in the Pakistan military, however, say that they are not in favour of allowing the march to approach the Line of Control.

AJK Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum recently endorsed the JKLF protest, but announced that the central committee of his Muslim conference will decide whether to join those crossing the LOC.

There is a feeling in certain official circles that the JKLF workers should be allowed to protest within the Azad Kashmir areas.

"Under the Simla Accords, the LOC has to be respected by both India and Pakistan," an official said. "The situation needs a delicate handling. The government should intelligently dissuade the protesters from their present position."

Government To Bar JKLF Crossing

BK0502032692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] The Pakistan Government has reportedly decided not to allow the Pakistan-based JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] to organize a mass crossing on the line of actual control in Kashmir on the 11th of this month.

AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent in Islamabad Suresh Chopra understands that a high-level meeting of senior military officers called by the Pakistan Army chief, General Asif Nawaz Janjua, in Rawalpindi yesterday decided that the mass crossing was fraught with great danger and could result in an armed conflict between India and Pakistan. However, there are also reports that JKLF leaders are still insisting on going ahead with the crossing.

Meanwhile, the nationwide bundh [strike] is in progress in Pakistan in response to a call given by the Pakistani prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, to express what he called solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

Nation Observes Solidarity With Kashmiris

BK0502031692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Solidarity Day is being observed today in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir to express support

to the Kashmiri freedom fighters and to condemn the atrocities perpetrated by the Indian occupation forces on innocent civilians. This day is being observed by the people of occupied Kashmir, and by Kashmiris living in other parts of the world as well. A total strike is being observed throughout the country as well as Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and meetings, rallies, and demonstrations are being organized against the use of brutal force by India to prevent the relentless struggle of the Kashmiris.

In a message on this occasion, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the Kashmiri people, who have launched a peaceful struggle for their independence, have now risen against the forces of suppression and atrocity owing to the recalcitrant attitude of the Indian authorities and their use of brutal force. Nawaz Sharif has expressed the hope that the people of Kashmir will definitely succeed in their just and legitimate struggle and that their great sacrifices will triumph at last. He urged the international community to bring pressure on India to implement the UN resolutions that call for holding a UN-sponsored plebiscite in Kashmir.

In his message, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Mehtab Ahmad Khan has assured the Kashmir freedom fighters that Pakistan will continue to extend full moral support to them at the regional and international level. He said Pakistan will also continue to receive the attention of the international community at various international fora on the plight of the Kashmiri people, against whom the Indian occupation troops are using indiscrimate force. He said recent world events have proved that no nation can be deprived of its fundamental rights by the use of brutal force.

On the occasion of the day, which is being observed in response to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's appeal throughout Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, and occupied Kashmir, a general strike will be observed and massive rallies will be held in all major cities and towns. Such gatherings and demonstrations have been organized throughout Azad Jammu and Kashmir and occupied Kashmir. Overseas Kashmiris are also observing a day of solidarity with the Kashmiri freedom fighters against Indian repression. They will submit memoranda at UN missions demanding implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir.

A big meeting has been organized in Muzaffarabad. It will be addressed by Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, Acting Azad Kashmir President and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Rashid Abbasi, and other Kashmiri leaders. Leading a rally, the Azad Kashmir prime minister will go to the UN observer's office and submit a memorandum.

Jamiat-i-Islami chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad has appealed to people to pay tribute to the dedicated struggle of the Kashmiri people and express total solidarity with them through a peaceful strike. In a statement issued in Lahore, he expressed the hope that despite the inhuman tactics of the Indian forces in the occupied areas, God willing, the movement of the Kashmiri people will definitely succeed.

In a message on the occasion of the day of solidarity, Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain has asked the people to express solidarity with the Kashmiris. Condemning the atrocities perpetrated by the Indian forces on the Kashmiri people, he said India has gone to extremes in committing human rights violations.

Premier Returns From Davos, Discusses Reforms

BK0502050892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif returned to Islamabad from Davos yesterday evening after a six-day official visit to Switzerland, where he represented Pakistan at the World Economic Forum conference. During his stay in Davos, the prime minister also called on various world leaders who attended the forum, including the prime ministers of PRC, Turkey, and India and the presidents of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

On board his special plane during the visit, the prime minister said the economic reforms launched by his government are aimed at bringing revolutionary changes in education, improving health facilities, ending unemployment, and achieving self reliance. He said this four-point program needs speedy implementation of economic reforms in order to increase production, increase exports and government revenue, and repay the local and external debts incurred during the tenure of the previous government.

The prime minister chatted with the delegation members and newsmen for about an hour on board his special plane and heard their views. He said we have spent the first year of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad government formulating reforms and introducing them. During the second year these reforms will be implemented completely and expeditiously. The prime minister urged the investors, businessmen, and experts to help and guide the government in paving the way for implementing these reforms and in overcoming obstacles in this regard. On the reaction of foreign and local investors to these reforms, the prime minister said apparent spirit and enthusiasm has been noticed in the past few months in connection with setting up new companies, financial institutions, banks, industries, and other service institutions.

Referring to the reforms in the foreign exchange and privatization program, the prime minister said the pace of economic progress should be expedited and the facilities and opportunities provided by the government to businessmen and investors should be utilized. The prime minister said the only way to foil the evil designs of the antinational forces is to strengthen the country and improve its economy.

Sindh Chief Minister Hospitalized in London

BK0402090692 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Feb 92 p 6

[Excerpts] London, Feb 2.—The Chief Minister of Sindh, Jam Sadiq Ali, who arrived here on Thursday [30 January] from Geneva, has been moved to a London hospital for medical tests. A close friend of the Chief Minister said he had a relapse of the liver condition for which he was treated last October.

Jam Sadiq Ali had accompanied Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Geneva. But after the Prime Minister shifted to Davos to attend the World Economic Forum, Jam Sadiq Ali decided to come to London. [passage omitted]

He wanted to keep his visit private and had instructed the High Commissioner, who met him at the airport, not to let it be known that he was in London. Jam Sadiq Ali was staying in a luxury flat in Kensington from where he was moved to the hospital on Saturday night.

The Chief Minister was earlier planning to return to Zurich to join the Prime Minister's party for the journey back to Pakistan. But he may change his plans now as he is under treatment in hospital.

Envoy's Remarks in Washington on Israel Criticized

BK0302013592 Lahore THE NATION in English 2 Feb 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Abida's diplomatic lapse"]

[Text] Our Ambassador to the U.S., Ms Abida Hussain, who is reported to be still awaiting a call from the White House to present her credentials, has probably overlooked the fact that this in no way diminishes her representative character. She still is expected to articulate the policies of the Government of Pakistan and not make statements which are at variance, or in conflict with the official line. According to a report in a US weekly, called 'India Abroad', she is said to have remarked that Pakistan had no "independent quarrel" with Israel, that Pakistan would probably establish relations with Israel "down the road", that Pakistan too would seek a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, if India does so, etc. For an ambassador not to be fully conversant with all the foreign policy issues, could perhaps be forgiven, particularly where it is his or her first diplomatic assignment, but that she should be freely airing opinions on highly sensitive subjects without clearing them with Islamabad, is a serious matter. She should at least have realised that she is based in the world's most important capital today and the views expressed by her could be misinterpreted by certain quarters. If she was trying to mollify the anti-Pakistan sentiment prevailing in the Jewish or pro-Jewish lobbies there, this was quite the wrong way to do it.

Apart from other things, part of Ms Hussain's statement is factually incorrect. Independent of its support of the Arab cause, Pakistan has a quarrel with Israel's occupation of Jerusalem, a holy city for the Muslims of the world and its desecration of Muslim monuments, particularly its attempt to burn the Masjid-i-Aqsa. Even if a time comes to recognise Israel as a state, the decision will be taken and announced at the highest level. Again, on the question of India's seeking of a permanent seat in the Security Council, the Foreign Office has already said that Pakistan is against any expansion of the Council. How can that be reconciled with Pakistan itself seeking a permanent seat, even though the question was linked by her to Indian ambitions in this regard? If Ms Hussain had not received the Foreign Office brief on this point, at the time when she was being interviewed, she should have either declined to comment on it, or at least said that India is hardly qualified to seek a seat in view of its refusal to recognise resolutions of the Security Council itself—on Kashmir. Ms Hussain obviously should have been briefed properly before she was entrusted with her onerous responsibilities.

Japanese Business Leaders Conclude Meeting

OW0402130892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1213 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 4 (KYODO)—Japanese and Pakistani business executives Tuesday ended a two-day meeting with an agreement to boost exchanges of information on trade and investment opportunities in their respective countries.

The agreement was contained in a joint statement issued in Karachi by the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and a 70-member Japanese mission visiting the country to promote bilateral economic ties.

Shunji Yueda, deputy leader of the Japanese mission, told Pakistani delegates Monday that Pakistan needs to improve its infrastructure as well as guarantee law and order if it hopes to attract more Japanese investment.

Pakistan must also carry out radical economic reforms announced by the government, Yueda said.

Bilateral relations have cooled since the kidnapping last year of three Japanese students in Sindh and the last-minute cancellation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Japan due to domestic turmoil.

The Japanese mission is scheduled to meet in Islamabad Wednesday and Thursday with Pakistani Government officials, including President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the prime minister.

Topics are expected to include trade and investment barriers as well as improving private sector ties between the two countries.

Joint Communique Issued

BK0402144592 Islamabad Pakistan Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Feb 92 (tentative)

[Text] The seventh joint meeting of Pakistan-Japan business cooperation committees concluded in Karachi today.

A joint communique issued at the end of the two-day meeting welcomed the new measures adopted by the government of Pakistan since December 1990 which were commended by the Japanese side. The communique underlined the need for joint efforts to attract Japanese investment into Pakistan through identification of projects and conducting of business feasibility studies. It called for an aggressive approach by the business communities of the two countries. Both sides agreed to form a joint working committee to study and collect information on incentives being offered by other countries in the region to make appropriate adjustment in the foreign investment policy. The two delegations agreed to promote good business and investment relations between their countries through exchange of information on trade and investment opportunities, including joint ventures and exchange of trade investment delegations.

Addressing a joint press conference at the end of the two-day seventh meeting of the business cooperation committees of Pakistan and Japan, the chairman of Japan committee, Mr. Shunji Uyeda, said that dynamic liberalization of the economic policy of the government has made the future foreign investment in Pakistan very bright. He said the Japanese investment in this country has become buoyant due to healthy changes of the government's policy.

Addressing the press conference, the chairman of Pakistan-Japan committee, Mr. Yusuf Zia, said that the Japanese investors are expected to invest over $100 million in Pakistan through several joint ventures. He said the Pakistani side was successful in making some breakthrough for the first time during the meeting. He said that the Japanese counterparts were now too keen to invest in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

President Addresses Nation on Independence Day

BK0402122392 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Sri Lankans observed the 44th national day by participating in various ceremonies. Buddhist temples, Hindu kovils [temples], mosques, and Christian churches held religious ceremonies to invoke blessings on the country and its people. Various programs have been organized at provincial, district, and pradeshiya [local council] levels. The main ceremony was held at Independence Square in Colombo.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa in his address to the nation on the occasion of the national day posed the question as to why we freed ourselves from foreign rule. Is it only for the purpose of replacing foreign domination with self-rule? No. It is to develop an independent economy by the will of our people. It is to build strong bonds of unity among our different communities. It is to create a righteous and prosperous society based on noble human values. Let us today rededicate ourselves to redouble our efforts to achieve this great objective. He queried as to how noble the freedom is we gained unitedly without shedding even a drop of blood. Today, how tragic it is to see innocent blood being shed to safeguard our unity. Let us reach a consensus on that. Through such consensus, let us protect the unitary character of our country. Let us defeat violence, let us make nonviolence victorious.

The president said our economy is buoyant. Our democratic system of government is strong. Our Armed Forces and the police are relentlessly engaged in protecting the people. Justice and equity are meted out to all on the basis of qualifications and merit. Discipline is being enforced. Sri Lanka has assumed the leadership of the South Asian region. We are promoting peaceful coexistence through mutual cooperation for overall prosperity in our region. Let us forge greater bonds of brotherhood and understanding among all our communities—Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, and Burghers. Let us not be slaves to irrational passion. Let us discard violence and terror. Let us not bow our heads to injustice. Let us not be shaken by fear. Let us make Sri Lanka a country that is not fragmented by parochial issues. We must earn foreign resources by exporting local produce. To that extent, our economy will be fortified. We must build strong bonds of unity among all sections of our people. To that extent, the security of our country will be guaranteed. We must bring about social justice on the basis of our time-honored values. To that extent, our sovereignty will be strengthened.

Let us not forget that to the extent we exist on external assistance, we will be subjected to external pressures. Let us not forget that to the extent we are divided and disunited, external elements will be able to interfere in our internal affairs. Let us not forget that to the extent we allow the growth of (?immorality), we will be victims of external influence. We must accept these realities. We must take practical steps to face these challenges. It is only then that we can make national independence a vehicle to liberate our people. May the blessings of the noble triple gems be with you all! The president addressed the nation in all three languages.

LANKAPUVATH Views Achievements

BK0402103392 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1407 GMT 3 Feb 92

["OANA/pool" item; by Geoff Wijesinghe]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka enters her forty fifth year of independence, Tuesday [4 February], in a spirit of renewed confidence, and a greatly strengthened democracy. President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who has led Sri Lanka for the last three years has taken the country out of the woods. Today, Sri Lanka has the most liberal economy in South Asia and possibly in Asia. Sri Lanka which has a population of 17 million has a growth rate of 6.2 per cent and a literacy rate of 87

per cent. There is large scale foreign investment in the country. The tourist industry achieved a 317,000 arrivals mark in 1991, the highest since 1983 when a record 407,000 tourists visited the country before the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] intensifed its campaign of terror in the north and caused a backlash in the south in July 1983.

Then, in 1987 in the aftermath of the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] unleashed a campaign of brutal terror, in a concerted effort to overthrow the democratically elected Government of Sri Lanka and establish a fascist dictatorship. When the last general elections were held in December 1988, the JVP threatened to cut off the right hand of every voter. Nevertheless, 60 per cent of the electorate voted and democracy survived.

Today, there is peace in the south and despite terrorist activity in the north and to a lesser degree in the east, Sri Lanka is continuing its economic recovery. It has a booming stock market with increasing foreign participation, a garment industry which is its biggest foreign exchange earner, a poverty alleviation Janasaviya programme which has been taken as a model by countries so far apart as Nigeria, Philippines and Venzuela.

Human resource is for the first time given the importance it deserves. Consumer goods ranging from food and clothing to radios, cars, TV's, in fact everything immaginable, is available in Sri Lanka, proving the success of her open economic policy. There is no trickle down theory any more. All the government's programme are so oriented to begin at grass roots level and move up, thus ensuring the active participation of the great mass of the people in the development process and the administration.

Sri Lanka's 1.5 million houses programme is ahead of target and has been taken as a model by many countries. Sri Lanka leads South Asia as it enters its 44th year of independence with President Premadasa as the current chairman of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. One of the most significant events of Tuesday's national day is awarding of the country's highest national honour "Dheshabandu" by President Premadasa to five outstanding performers at the recently concluded SAF [South Asian Federation] games in Colombo. Sri Lanka's splendid performance at the SAF games has given the nation a new identity and a new pride in being Sri Lankan.

20 LTTE 'Terrorists' Lay Down Arms

BK0302123892 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1137 GMT 3 Feb 92

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Twenty LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists laid down their arms, said they had lost the will to continue fighting and surrendered this morning to eastern military commander, Major General Gerry de Silva, at his headquarters in Batticaloa. General officer commanding the Joint Operations Command, General Hamilton Wanasinghe, who returned Monday after a four day tour of the east, told LANKAPUVATH that this was the largest single group of LTTE terrorists to surrender. The 20 terrorists had called at the TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] office at Chenkaladi, a junction town, 15 kilometres north of Batticaloa and said they wanted to surrender to the authorities. The surrendering terrorists all of them in their youth said the ongoing military operations in the Batticaloa district in which 39 terrorists have been killed during the last one month had made them realise the futility of remaining with the LTTE. Two weeks ago, an LTTE woman cadre surrendered at Vellaveli and another at Karadiyararu in the Batticaloa district.

Meanwhile, six LTTE terrorists and a homeguard were killed in separate incidents in eastern Sri Lanka Sunday. The Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that troops of Operation Razor shot dead five terrorists south of Kokkadicholai in the Batticaloa district, 300 kilometres from Colombo. The security forces also captured an outboard motor, a motorcycle and a stock of medicines, during the search and clearing operation. Homeguards on duty at a point nearby, shot dead an LTTE terrorist who had killed a Muslim homeguard who was resting at home and a civilian at Chavalakadai in the Amparai district, 350 kilometres from Colombo. Police recovered a cache of weapons hidden by the LTTE at Sirimapura in the Trincomalee district. They were a light machine gun, five AK-47 rifles and a G-3 rifle.